



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Deanna Alexander, District 18

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MILWAUKEE COUNTY SUPERVISOR DEANNA ALEXANDER **SUPPORTS REALLOCATING MONEY FOR TRANSIT AND ROADS**

Milwaukee County Supervisor Deanna Alexander said today that she supported efforts by Milwaukee Ald. Bob Donovan asking Gov. Scott Walker work Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and County Executive Chris Abele to reallocate funding for a downtown Milwaukee streetcar, and she urged Walker to strongly consider Donovan's request.

In a February 19 letter to Governor Walker, Donovan asked that the Governor partner with other leaders to reallocate funding for originally intended for the downtown streetcar proposed by Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, and instead use the money to improve city streets and increase transit services to connect Milwaukee residents with suburban jobs.

"Ald. Donovan is absolutely on the right track with his request to reallocate streetcar funding and use it for street repairs and transit," said Alexander, a member of the County Board's Intergovernmental Relations Committee and the Transportation, Public Works and Transit Committee.

"The streetcar is lacking public support," Alexander said. "We would be much more pragmatic to forego a shiny new streetcar plan and instead support what would have a more meaningful impact for our residents: expanding bus transit taking workers to suburban jobs and repairing the roads that are already deteriorating."

"With limited resources, we'd all be better off with buses that go jobs rather than a streetcar that goes nowhere," Alexander continued. "I'll be happy to talk about a streetcar plan when Milwaukee isn't busy carrying the burden of being the 3rd highest taxed city in the county and when its residents aren't calling elected officials begging for access to just-out-of-reach suburban jobs."

Donovan suggested that Walker reallocate the \$54.9 million in federal funding earmarked for the streetcar and use it for a state/city partnership to fund street paving and the Milwaukee County Transit System.

"We have far more urgent needs than a streetcar," she said. "If it is possible under the law, I urge the Governor, the Mayor, County Executive, and anyone else who can stir this pot for some practical change to take action to give our residents what they want: jobs and transportation to them, *not toys*."

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